



Ministère de l'Ecologie
et du Développement Durable

Benefit Transfer in France: Towards Better Recognition ?

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BT in France: towards better recognition ?

- **EVRI in France**

- French studies in EVRI
- French users of EVRI

- **Benefit Transfer in France**

- Academic research
- Where BT is needed
- Current activities and perspectives





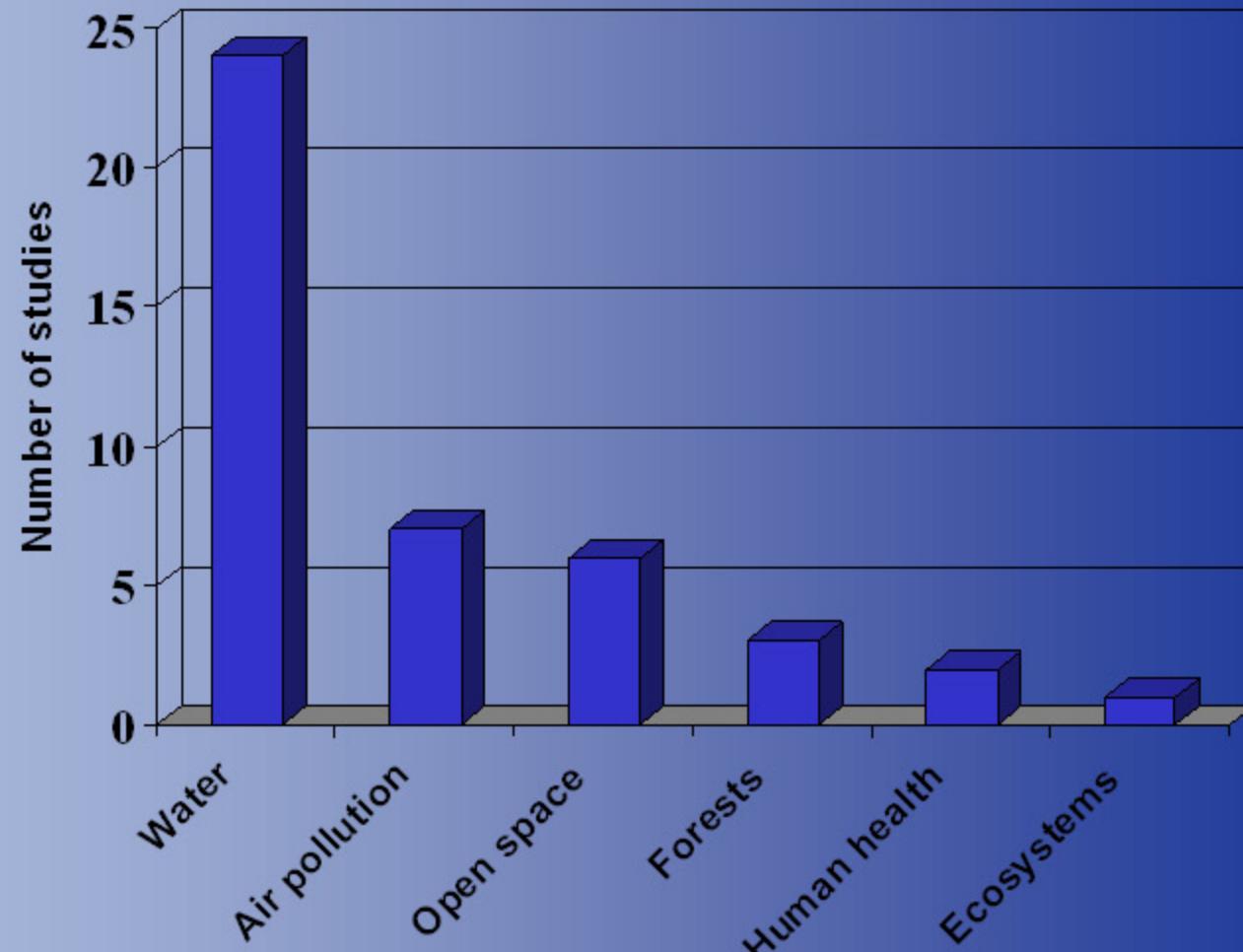
France and the EVRI Club

- Member since October 2002
- Paris hosted the first meeting of the EVRI Club in May 2003
 - Workshop on the Economic Valuation of Environmental Goods
- 50 French studies in the EVRI database
- Around 100 French subscribers of EVRI (~ 10 % of total EVRI subscribers)



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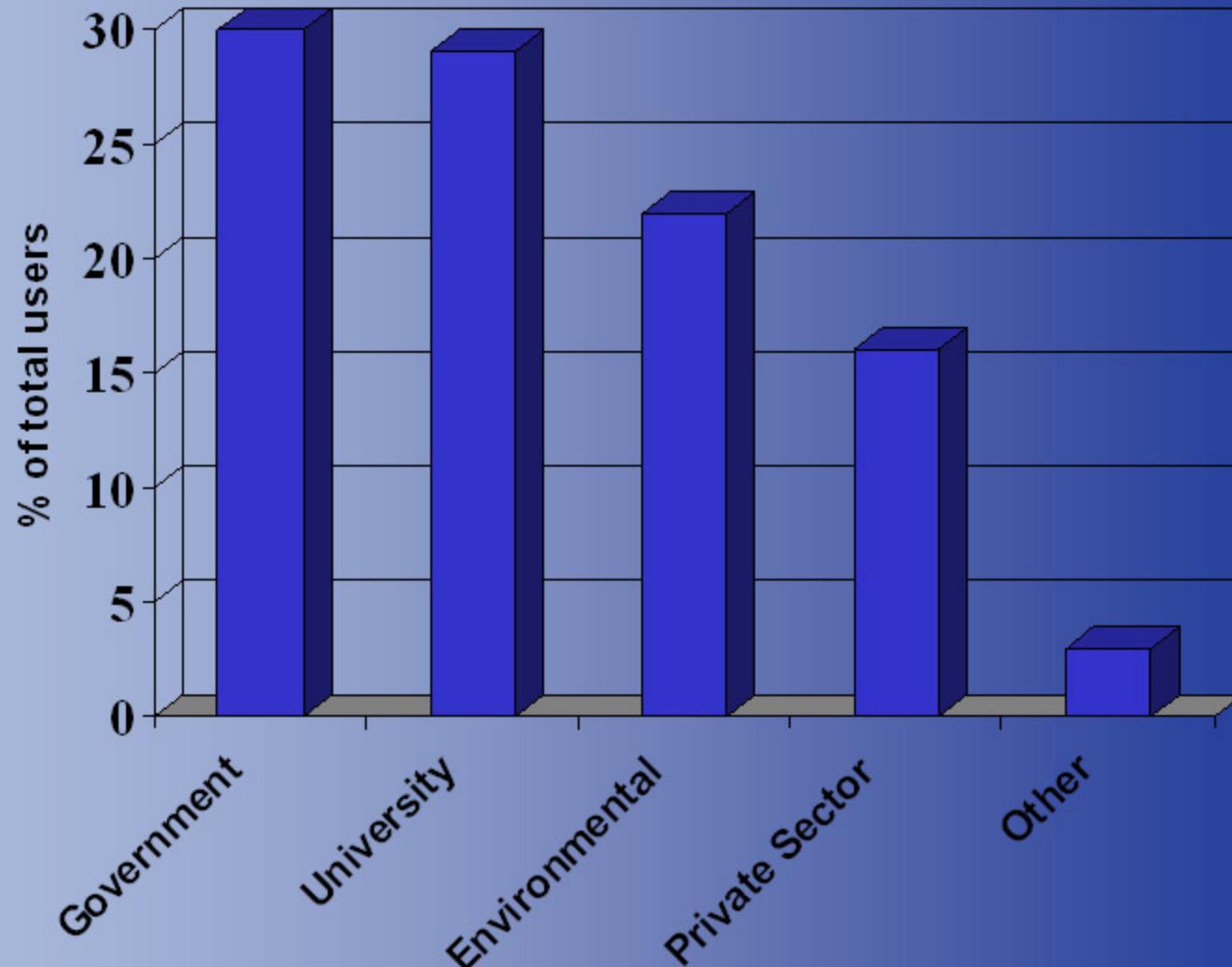
French Studies in EVRI by Impact Area





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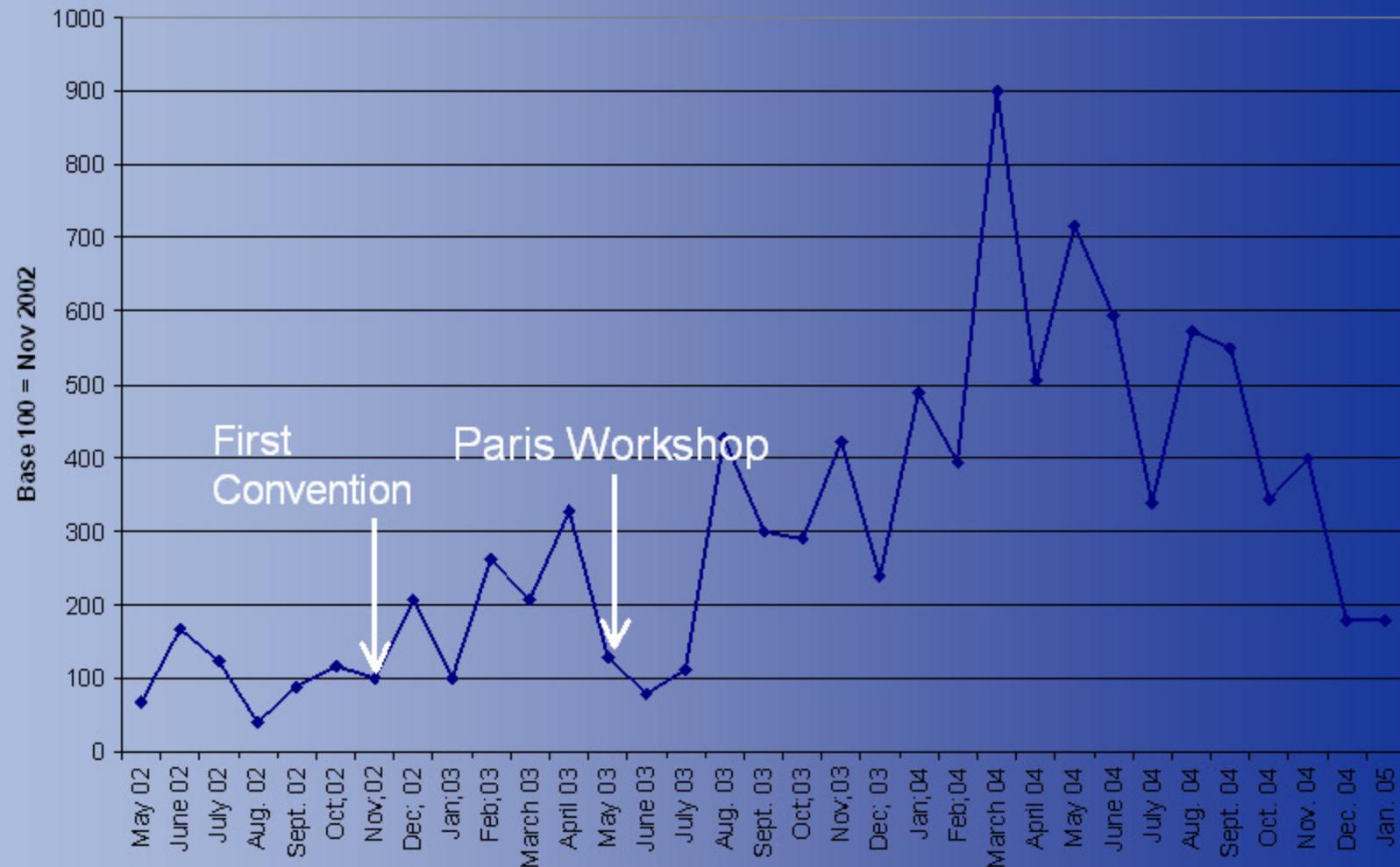
A typology of French EVRI users





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The Evolution of EVRI use in France





French Use of Benefit Transfer

- **An initial skepticism fuelled by early academic studies**
 - Rozan, Stenger, Willinger (1998)
 - Rozan (2004)
 - Few applied BT examples
- **... but a growing awareness of the need for the BT**
 - European Framework Water Directive
 - French National Strategy for Biodiversity
- **Current activities and perspectives**
 - Standardizing method and survey practices
 - BT & CE





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Preservation of the water quality of the Alsatian Aquifer

- Rozan, Stenger & Willinger (1998)
- CV study
 - 10 Alsatian cities
 - WTP to protect the Aquifer
- Possibility of transfer between Alsatian users ?
 - Hypothesis of transferability rejected in 75 % of the cases
 - Error rates between 30 % and 50 %
- Conclusion
 - Extreme caution when transferring the values to other French aquifers





Intrasite Benefit Transfer : WTP for Air Quality in France and Germany

- Rozan (2004)
- CV study to value air quality in Strasbourg (France) and Kehl (Germany)
 - On average, air quality is the same in the two cities
 - Same good is valued in both cities ⇒ “intrasite” transfer
 - Ideal situation for BT
- Main finding : method of benefit transfer generally not valid
 - German respondents declared higher WTP
 - Error rates : ~ 30 %
- Conclusions
 - One should be cautious about the use of the BT method
 - But, in some case, BT may be appropriate for some policy analyses where errors of 30 % or more are acceptable.





Few applied BT studies in France

- **At least three reasons**

- Results of academic studies : pessimistic view of the usefulness of BT in applied studies
- Few French primary studies
 - Great suspicion on the appropriateness of transfer from Anglo-Saxon studies
- Limited diffusion of valuation methods (CVM, HPM, TCM, ...) among policy makers
 - Difficult to promote BT studies





Where BT is needed

- **The European Water Framework Directive & Cost-Benefit Analysis**

- Valuation of Environmental Benefits for highly modified rivers
- Too many primary studies are needed
- BT is particularly recommended

- **French National Strategy for Biodiversity**

- EVRI recognized as an essential tool to achieve one of the goals of this Strategy (determining the value of biodiversity)
- Using BT in order to estimate the total value of the French biodiversity





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Current activities

- **Guides to standardize method and survey practices**

- Compromise between high-level research and operational capabilities
- Main target : economists in Water Agencies
- Provide simple guidelines to make studies in "Water" comparable

- **Biodiversity**

- Valuation of the Natura 2000 conservation program + valuation of biodiversity
- Study the possibility of BT between two different ecosystems
- Method : Choice Experiments





Perspectives

- **Further development of the use of EVRI in France**
- **BT studies in the context of the Framework Water Directive**
- **BT and national accounting**
 - Would change the nature of studies
 - Would bring recognition to valuation studies and benefit transfer
 - In the medium run

